

# Family and Consumer Advocacy and Support Group

Progress Report

August 7, 2017



Strength Hope Compassion



# To Our Dear Friend-



# Mission Statement

Our mission is to support the segments of the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force by improving the delivery of services for those affected, advocating for our loved ones while fortifying the community response of attaining our common goal of eliminating addiction, illness and death from opiate use.

We envision a joint effort to:

- show respect for all people
- minimize health, legal and social harms associated with substance use
- provide comfort and compassion to those affected by addiction
- advocate for available, affordable, comprehensive therapeutic services for the addicted
- educate the public
- focus on prevention
- reduce harm among families and individuals
- pursue legal enactments to further our goal.
- eradicate this public health crisis from our community and our homes



# Goals

Save Lives.

Eliminate addiction, illness and death from opiate or opioid use.

Advocate for our loved ones.

# Subgroups

- Event Planning
- Lobbying
- Community Education
- Grief Support/ Parenting Support





# Putting a Face on Addiction

- News
- Social Media
- Personal Stories
- Public Statements
- Private Statements



# Educate

- May- Walk of Hope
- June- ECMC, Staff Education
- July- Public Service Announcement
- Facebook Page 'Opioid Epidemic Family Section'

# Community Narcan Classes

## Training Classes at the Erie County Fair



August 10, 12, 15, 19 @ Health  
Dept. Table in the Marketplace.



# Advocate:

- Encourage others to use the 'Language of Love' to engage our struggling population
  - Every interaction can be an opportunity to express concern and offer help
  - We need to develop a stabilization plan for each individual which includes acceptance
- Encourage professionals to treat our affected population with dignity



# Lobbying

- Letters to Assembly Members
- Involvement with Court Programs
- Attend Fund Raisers
- Expressing our concerns to our elected leaders

# Grief/Support Groups

## Stutzman Treatment Center

- 360 Forrest Ave. Buffalo, NY 6:30pm
- every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month

## Hope Group Hamburg

- Senior Citizens Center
- Southwestern Blvd. 6:00pm
- Hamburg, NY
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

# Community Support

- The Courts Have Responded
  - Family Court and Opiate Court
- The Medical Community Has Responded
  - MAT in ER
  - Primary Care providers (suboxone)
- Treatment Availability has Increased
  - Walk in Slots
- New Ideas are Developing
  - Mobile Response

# Our Goals for 2017

- Harm Reduction
  - Residual effects of this epidemic include infants born addicted and an increase in the sex trade
- No one who asks for treatment should be turned away
- Humane Treatment for Addiction/ Mental Health
  - Examine discharges (minor infractions / relapse)
- Consequences for convicted drug dealers

# Upcoming event

## CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> — 6:30 PM

LASALLE PARK PAVILION BANDSHELL

1 PORTER AVE. BUFFALO 14201

Join us to Remember and Show Respect for  
our Loved Ones Taken By This Epidemic



### Invited Guests

**Mark C. Poloncarz**, Executive, County of Erie

**Byron Brown**, Mayor, City of Buffalo

**John Flynn**, Erie County District Attorney

**Michael Ranney**, Commissioner of Mental Health

**John Flickinger**, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Resident in Charge

**Daniel Rinaldo**, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA),

New York/New Jersey

Members of the **Erie County Legislature**

Members of the City of **Buffalo Common Council**



**Erie County  
Department of  
Health**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Erie County  
Opiate Epidemic Task Force:  
Family & Consumer Support  
and Advocacy Section



For more information,  
contact Deb Smith  
716.800.9173

Updated 06/29/2017



We have One Enemy- The Drug  
Anything else is a distraction from our goal



**We are Grateful**

We know we still have a long way  
to go in this crisis.

We are a group of passionate,  
professional, trained individuals  
who are willing to support your  
objectives.

How can we assist you?



We know  
we are not  
Alone

Thank You

